

### What happens if you refuse to let your child be medically examined?

- Usually a child's parent is asked for consent to the examination. If consent is not given and if the social workers and/or police feel an examination would be in your child's best interests, they may need to discuss this further with you.
- Sometimes, young people may be able to give their own consent and the doctor will decide if this is possible (Gillick competent).

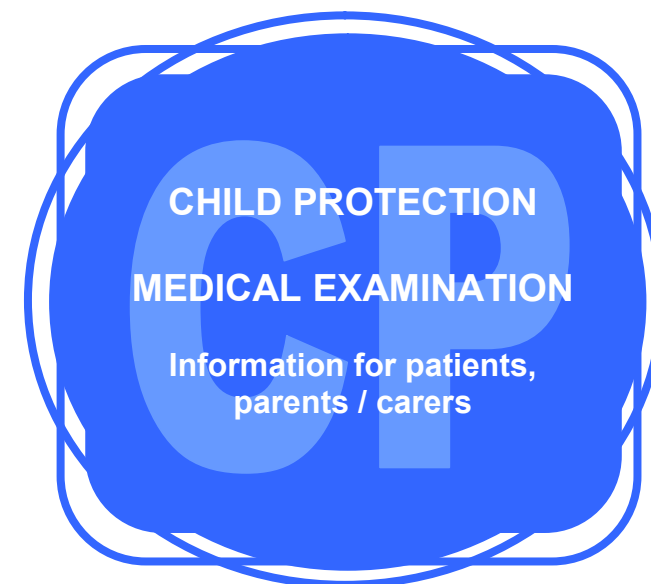
### Remember

A child protection investigation can be a stressful time for you and your family. It is important that:

- You understand what is happening.
- You and your child's views are listened to.
- If necessary, you are given help and advised on the best way you and your child can be supported during this time.

### Useful telephone numbers

Social Care Teams and Emergency Duty Teams	01782 235100 (Stoke-on-Trent 8.30 am – 5 pm)
	01782 234234 (Stoke-on-Trent out of above hours & weekends)
	0800 1313 126 (Staffordshire First Response 8.30am to 4.30pm, Mon – Fri)
	0345 6042886 (Staffordshire out of above hours & weekends)
Staffordshire Police	0300 123 44 55 (non-emergency and Child Protection) 999 (emergencies only)
Childline	0800 1111(freephone)
NSPCC	0808 800 5000 (freephone)



### Why is this examination necessary?

- A **child protection** medical examination has been requested as there have been concerns about your child.
- The examination will be carried out by a senior children's doctor (paediatrician) who has been specially trained for this work.
- Your written permission (consent) and/or your child's (depending upon your child's age and understanding) will be needed for the examination.
- Other children in the family may need to be examined as well.

### What happens when you arrive?

- Your child will be weighed and have their height measured.
- The doctor will then come and see you. They will want to ask the social worker or police officer for some background information.

### Who else will be present at the examination?

- You, your child and the doctor. If others need to be present, this will be discussed with you.

### What questions will you be asked?

- The doctor wants to know about the overall health of your child. You will be asked about:
  - any illnesses your child has had
  - their birth
  - development
  - immunisations
  - allergies
  - any medication
  - behaviour and progress at school
  - their day-to-day health
  - family history
- You will also be able to talk about any health concerns you may have about your child.

### What happens during the examination?

- Your child will have a full general (top-to-toe) examination. If your child has any obvious injuries these will be noted, measured and drawn in the child's records.
- Your child will also be told that the examination can be stopped at any time if they/you wish. A further discussion can then take place as to what is best to do next.

### What happens next?

- More specific investigations may need to be done. These will be discussed with you.
- The doctor will explain the findings of the examination to you and your child (depending on your child's age and understanding) as well as to any social worker and/or police officer involved.
- The doctor will write a report which is then sent to your GP, and any social worker and/or police officer involved. This report and the hospital records written at the time may be produced as evidence in court if necessary.
- We might need to give your child treatment or arrange for them to be followed up by a children's doctor at a later date. If this is needed, we will talk to you about it at the medical.